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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, the giver of life, teach us how to become our best selves. Activate us with noble impulses that will produce helpful speech and faithful actions. Lead us ever on the side of the gracious and good as we strive to be instruments of Your peace.

Today, sustain our Senators through the challenges they face. Infuse them with the humility that will motivate them to serve. May their thoughts, words, and deeds be acceptable to You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, this morning, on behalf of the leader, let me make a statement.

This morning we will immediately return to the consideration of the comprehensive immigration bill. Senators KYL and CORNYN have an amendment

pending on which we hope to get a short time agreement. Senators have had overnight to review the language, and I expect us to lock in a time certain for a vote.

The chairman has been working on a lineup of amendments, and the leader encourages Senators to be ready with amendments when it is their time. We want to keep the bill moving, and the leader anticipates votes throughout the day.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator is recognized.

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF THE NSA PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week USA Today reported that the Bush administration may be collecting the phone records of millions of Americans. The administration's efforts to monitor activities of American citizens appeared to be far broader than President Bush had previously acknowledged.

Not surprisingly, Democratic and Republican Members of Congress have expressed concerns about this report and indicated they have sought more information about this program. Several Members made it clear that General Hayden would be required to answer questions about this program as part of his confirmation process.

Late yesterday, the Senate was informed that the administration agreed to brief all members of the Senate Intelligence Committee on the President's authorization of NSA warrantless surveillance programs, including clarifying whether the reports in USA Today are accurate. This new overture to the Senate on one aspect of the administration's overall efforts is a welcome development. I hope this action has more to do with a newfound interest to keep Congress fully informed than about its concerns regarding their nomination for CIA Director. I am surprised it has taken so long, and so much tugging and pulling, to get the administration to at least this point. It is, quite simply, required by law under the National Security Act of 1947 and by the Senate's own rules. So it really is about time.

Chairman ROBERTS approached me on the floor yesterday to tell me about these new developments. The Senator from Kansas and I have had our differences and will continue to have those differences over the conduct of the Intelligence Committee's investigation of the administration's misuse of intelligence on Iraq. Senator ROBERTS and I spent many good years together as the chairman and vice chairman, back and forth—whatever the leadership was in the Senate—on the Ethics Committee. We had a good relationship. That is going to override all the negativity we have had on this Intelligence Committee stonewalling we have had.

In the instance about this NSA wiretapping, I appreciate Chairman ROBERTS' acknowledgment that the Senate needs more information on these programs and the role the President has played in this. I appreciate very much the work by the Chairman and the hard work by Vice Chairman ROCKEFELLER to step forward to allow all members of the Intelligence Committee to know what is going on or attempt to get to know what is going on. It is important

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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